Capacity of nuclear power reactors

*352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided that the unit size of the future power reactors in the country be increased to 700 MW capacity instead of 250 MW or 540 MW capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what important project implementation strategies have been adopted by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India to reduce the construction period of atomic plants in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) beyond those presently under construction (unit sizes of 220 MWe and 540 MWe) are planned to be of 700 MWe unit size, based on scaling up of 540 MWe unit design. The reactor core in 700 MWe design is same as in 540 MWe and only a few small changes have been made in other nuclear systems. Design and development works on 700 MWe PHWRs are in an advanced stage. (c) Strategies being adopted in the construction of projects under construction for reducing construction time are as follows:

Completion of pre-project activities in design and development of site infrastructure before commencing the construction of the project.

Timely manufacture of components/equipment in the context of the experience gained in the field.

Adopting the concept of large supply-cum-erection packages to the extent feasible.

Increased use of automation in the construction.

Strengthening project management techniques and monitoring mechanism for controlling schedule.

Investment by MTNL

*353.SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. propose to invest Rs. 1200 crore during the current fiscal year for developing telephone infrastructure; if so the details thereof;